```
166
  1
      earlier, was that later changed to -- was the
       name later changed to "loan to purchase" or
  2
       was the loan to purchase what it was called
  3
       previously?
  4
          A I think the latter.
  5
  6
           Q So it was first loan to purchase
  7
       and then it was --
        A I think so. I think so. I don't
8
       recall this being a separate program.
  9
           Q Now, the amounts sold in connection
10
       with those programs, are they included in the
 11
12
       numbers in the XRP markets reports?
 13
          A Oh man -- I don't remember. I
       don't remember with certainty.
 14
 15
            Q So you start in the company in
       November of 2016.
 16
        Did you have -- when was the first
 17
 18
       quarter that you had involvement in
 19
       programmatic and OTC sales?
 20
        A If I remember correctly, it was
 21
       right away.
 22
        Q If you look at Q1 2017, that
 23
       quarter had the lowest programmatic sales.
 24
       What was going on at that time? It was --
       obviously it dipped down from the previous
  25
```

```
167
   1
        quarter.
            A
                  I don't -- I don't remember.
   2
                 And then if you look at -- compare
   3
        Q1 2017 to Q2 2017, there's large increases
   4
        in both programmatic and OTC sales.
   5
   6
            A
                  Yes.
   7
                 What was the reason for the
        increase during -- from the -- from the
  8
        previous quarter to the Q2?
  9
            A I don't know why the OTC sales
10
        increased. Again, I don't remember that. I
11
12
        do know that in Q2 of 2017, the volume of XRP
  13
        grew significantly. And we were selling
        based on volume. So my guess here is that
  14
 15
        the programmatic sales were based with the
        volume growth.
  16
  17
                  In Q1 and Q2 of 2017, there was a
  18
        priority based on promote of speculative
  19
        trading?
  20
            A
                 Yes.
  21
            Q It looks like Q1 2018, was a
  22
        record-breaker for programmatic sales.
  23
            A
                  Yes.
                 What was going on then?
  24
            Q
            A
                  I don't -- I don't remember.
  25
```

```
168
                You don't remember. Okay.
1
  2
                Is there any reason why you -- why
       the company would have been selling so much
3
4
       during that time period; if you recall?
5
            A Again, my guess here is -- Q4 2017,
       is December of 2017. It is a run up of
6
7
       cryptocurrency markets, everything rallied.
       And then in Q1 2018, they started to come
 8
9
       off. Again, my guess here is that volumes
       must have been very, very high across the
10
       space. And obviously, XRP also had high
 11
       volumes. Again, I'm guessing.
 12
 13
            Q If you also look at Q2 to Q3 2018
 14
       OTC sales, quite a big jump from sixteen
       million to ninety million.
 15
            A
                 Mm-hmm.
 16
                Do you have an understanding as to
 17
 18
       what was going on then?
            A Yes. So if I remember correctly,
 19
 20
       the bulk of that ninety million was OTC sales
 21
       to one purchaser.
 22
            Q
                 Who was that purchaser?
 23
                           I can't quite remember
       if it was Capital or Inc.
 24
                                          was a
 25
       main fund.
```

```
169
                 Who's
            0
1
  2
                         is a New York City
       based -- I believe a hedge fund.
3
4
               Did they approach you about the
5
       large sales?
            A They did.
6
7
            Q Were the -- was it XRP that was
       sold subject to a lock up?
8
9
            A It was not.
            Q And why not?
 10
 11
                So in -- in -- at this point in the
       OTC sales, development, we had removed the
 12
       lock up restrictions. The rate card that I
 13
 14
       referenced earlier, we were no longer using.
       So OTC sales, at this point, didn't have --
 15
 16
       didn't have a lock up.
            Q Was the XRP sold at a discount?
 17
            A It was.
 18
            Q Despite the fact -- even though
 19
 20
       there was no lock up?
 21
            A
                Yes.
            Q Why was it sold at discount without
 22
 23
       a lock up?
 24
            A They were able to negotiate that
 25
       with us. They said it that it would be a
```

```
170
       large purchase.
1
  2
        Q Why did the company agree with it?
        A I don't remember. We did have a
3
4
       relationship with
                                going back a long
5
       time. So I think that played into it a
6
       little bit.
7
                            an investor in Ripple
           0
                Was
       Labs?
 8
9
         A I think so. Yes.
           Q How did you know that?
 10
 11
           A I think the gentleman who runs
 12
               -- I can't remember his name right
       now -- I think he had mentioned it to me.
 13
 14
        Q Did you have a conversation with
       him in which he mentioned that?
 15
           A I believe I did, yeah.
 16
           0
                And when was the conversation?
 17
           A
                I don't remember.
18
           Q Was it in connection with the
 19
 20
       sales?
 21
           A
                No.
 22
                And the --
                                     investment in
 23
       Ripple, did it provide for the sale of XRP?
                I'm sorry. I don't understand.
 24
           A
 25
           0
                The -- the --
                                       investment
```

```
171
       in Ripple, do you know whether they were
 1
  2
       investing in Ripple?
                 I have no idea.
  3
4
                 That agreement, was there -- did
       they also enter into an agreement with
5
6
                at the same time to sell the XRP?
7
            A
                 I don't know.
                                   going to do with
                 What was
 8
9
       the XRP?
            A So they were -- they were actually
 10
 11
       buying it for -- it was an investor of
 12
       their's that wanted exposure to the XRP. At
 13
       least that's what was explained to us.
 14
            Q Was it a long-term investor?
 15
            A I don't know.
                 I'm just trying to understand why
 16
 17
       the company would agree to sell such a large
       amount to this entity without a lock up.
 18
            A Yeah. I mean, again, we stopped
 19
 20
       the lock up under provisions. You know, the
 21
       markets were much bigger now. And the -- and
 22
       in this case, the -- we found this out later,
 23
       but his purchaser of XRP did end up just
       buying it and selling it and monetizing the
 24
 25
       discount.
```

```
172
                 So the exact same thing that we had
1
  2
       tried not to happen. The reason we had the
       lock ups did end up happening here. So we
3
4
       all agreed that it had been a mistake to
5
       provide the -- to provide the large sale
6
       without the lock up.
7
                 Did the -- who was the investor?
            A I don't know.
8
9
                How did you learn that he sold?
         A I think we ended up asking the
 10
 11
       person who was --
                                   We ended up
                       if they were selling
 12
       asking
       immediately after -- if I remember correctly,
 13
 14
       I think maybe somebody in Compliance. I
       can't remember. I can't remember.
 15
                 Did the sale have an effect on the
 16
       price of XRP?
 17
              I'm not sure. The markets had been
 18
       going down basically all year. So it's hard
 19
 20
       to say.
 21
            Q Q2 2019, was a banner quarter.
                        nillion.
       Total USD amount
 22
 23
                 Can you tell me what was going on
 24
       at the time? What happened, why there was
 25
       such a large increase from the previous
```

173 quarter in OTC sales and also in 1 programmatic? 2 Yeah. I don't recall the OTC 3 number. I'm not quite sure why the increase 4 there. I'll try to remember. But the --5 6 this was right around the time we were having 7 conversations with respect to CoinMarketCap and the volumes on CoinMarketCap. 8 And the fact that it kept on 9 10 growing as the market seemed to be not moving one way or the other really. So we -- the --11 12 we were selling basic percentages and we were 13 selling base CoinMarketCap. And CoinMarketCap numbers kept on rising so the 14 15 sales numbers kept on rising. Well, you said you were kind of --16 17 at one point did you start questioning, the 18 volume reported by CoinMarketCap? I don't remember. It would have 19 20 been -- it was sometime in the first half of 21 the year. I can't remember exactly when. If you were questioning those 22 23 numbers, why were you using it as a basis to 24 determine the percentage of, you know, the amount of programmatic sales? 25

```
174
            A
                Well, the decision -- that's a
        significant decision inside the company to
   2
   3
        change that index, what we use versus sales.
        It was something we had been using for a long
   4
        time. And there was significant discussion
   5
        back and forth as to whether or not --
   6
   7
                 MR. CERESNEY: Actually --
                 MS. WAXMAN: I don't want to know
  8
        about any privileged conversation.
  9
                MR. CERESNEY: Yeah, these
10
        potentially involved counsel at some of
11
12
        these, I assume. Right?
13
               THE WITNESS: They do, yes.
 14
               MR. CERESNEY: Okay. So --
15
               MS. WAXMAN: That's fine.
 16
                 MR. CERESNEY: Okay.
                 I still don't understand. That was
 17
 18
        the biggest quarter for programmatic sales,
  19
        Q2 2019. So I'm just trying to get a better
 20
        sense of how you guys determined to sell that
  21
        much during the quarter.
 22
                 Basis volume. The percentage basis
 23
       volume on CoinMarketCap.
 24
               Would there be any documents to
       reflect of what the percentage of basis
  25
```

```
175
      points for that period?
  1
  2
            A
                I'm sure, yes.
                What documents would we look to?
  3
                You would -- you would see that in
  4
            A
       daily reports from the market makers. You'd
  5
  6
       see those percentages.
  7
           Q Would that information be in the
       weekly sales reports -- presentations?
8
  9
          A Yes. Yes.
           Q Q3, the numbers drop significantly.
10
11
              What was going on then?
12
            A So in May of '19 is when I had
 13
       my -- my -- the responsibility changed and
       focused more on xRapid. So I wasn't involved
 14
       in Q3. I also went on paternity leave in
 15
 16
       July.
        Q So that's when Braydan Madigan
 17
       (sic) took over?
 18
 19
           A Breanne, yeah.
 20
           Q
                Breanne.
 21
           A Yeah.
  22
                         (SEC Exhibit No. 24 was
 23
                          marked for
  24
                          identification.)
  25
                 Showing you what's been marked as
            0
```

```
176
       Exhibit 20 -- 24. It's an e-mail chain dated
   1
        June 4, 2017. The subject is "Forward:
   2
   3
        Ripple's May board of directors update." And
        the very first e-mail is from Brad
   4
        Garlinghouse. Take a couple of minutes to
   5
   6
        read through it.
   7
                  (The witness examined the
        document.)
  8
           A Okay.
  9
10
                 I know you are not -- didn't write
        this e-mail and it doesn't appear that you
11
12
       are CC'ed.
 13
             But the Ripple's May investor
 14
        adviser update, did you receive those? Were
       you part of the distribution list?
 15
  16
            A
                 No.
                 So I want to direct you to the
 17
 18
        first page of the exhibit and the middle the
  19
       paragraph "In the interim."
 20
           A
                 Yes.
  21
           Q It says, "In the interim, we are
 22
        taking advantage of the dramatic investor
 23
        interest. By increasing our XRP sales, we
 24
       are both programmatic and block trading."
  25
                 Do you know what he's referring to
```

177 when he says, "block trading"? 1 I think he's talking about OTC 2 3 trading. Okay. Here he's saying that --4 0 earlier, you said that you guys didn't 5 6 generally increase programmatic sales as 7 volume increased, but that's not what he says here. 8 No. No. So we wouldn't increase 9 the percentage. Right. So if you go from a 10 11 million dollars trading to a billion dollars 12 trading and you keep the percentage the same, 13 your initial amount is going to increase by a 14 thousand. So I think that's what he's saying 15 here. Did you ever discuss with him 16 increasing XRP sales based on increased 17 18 investor interest or increased price? 19 A No. 20 Q Does this e-mail refresh your 21 memory as how much the company was making 22 from sales of software, of its software? 23 A At the time. 24 Q How much was it making, approximately? 25

```
178
            A Just reading from the e-mail, it
1
       looks like million in sales from software
  2
       sales. And June, close by,
                                       And then
3
4
            for end of Q2. If I'm reading that
5
       right.
                 The previous paragraph talks about
6
7
       price depreciation.
            A Mm-hmm.
 8
9
            Q It also talks about an increase in
       price from about seventeen cents to forty and
10
 11
       then back to twenty. Then to thirty. The
       e-mail says, he says, "I continue to think
 12
 13
       about how we can be strategic about
 14
       leveraging XRP going forward."
                 Do you know what he's talking about
 15
 16
       there?
                I don't.
            A
 17
            Q Okay. Did you have any -- did you
 18
       have any involvement in the company's
 19
 20
       decision to begin issuing XRP markets
 21
       reports?
            A I did.
 22
 23
            Q What was your involvement?
               I -- I was a big proponent of the
 24
 25
       idea.
```

```
179
                 Why?
   1
           0
                 Clarity. Visibility. As the
   2
           A
       largest holder of XRP, if you want to build a
   3
   4
       robust successful market, the more visibility
       you can give, the better.
   5
   6
                 Visibility as into what?
  7
                 Into Ripple's market activities.
            A
            Q
                 Ripple's activities concerning the
  8
       XRP?
  9
           A
10
                 Yes.
 11
            0
                 And can you be more specific?
12
           A
                 Sales, loans.
 13
           Q Why was more clarity and visibility
        something that you would recommend?
 14
15
           A I think he -- he mentioned it here.
       I think I saw it in -- Brad mentioned it in
 16
       an e-mail.
 17
          Q Exhibit 24?
 18
            A Exhibit 24, yes. When I joined,
 19
 20
       there was a lot of skepticism around XRP.
       There was a lot of chatter. A lot of
 21
 22
       mistrust with respect to the holdings in
 23
       particular. He mentions it, this idea that
 24
       we would turn around and sell sixty billion
  25
       XRP. So I think anything that we could do to
```

```
180
       dispel some of those mis -- would be helpful
1
  2
       to the market.
        Q You said there was skepticism; by
3
4
       whom?
5
           A I can't point to some -- to one
6
       person. It just felt that broadly there was
7
       doubt around the possibility that we would do
8
       that.
9
         Q Did the company hear this directly
       from people in the market?
 10
            A We -- I remember one meeting in
 11
 12
       particular, yes. Yes.
                When did that meeting occur?
 13
 14
            A
                Early 2017.
                Who was present at the meeting?
 15
            Q
 16
            A
                Me myself, Patrick Griffin,
                from
                                            And
 17
       there was someone else in the meeting. I
 18
       just can't remember who.
 19
 20
            Q Was Brad there?
 21
                I don't think so, no.
            A
 22
            Q
                Was Chris Larsen there?
 23
            A
                No.
               What was the purpose of the
 24
       meeting?
 25
```

```
181
                           which is a
                                          sub, had
1
2.
       recently listed or was going to list an
       Ethereum Classic fund, I think it was. And
3
                              around -- just
4
       we were talking to
5
       discussing the possibility of an XRP fund.
        Q Were you going to sell
                                           the XRP
6
7
       for the fund?
                No. I mean, I wasn't part of the
8
9
       discussion. No.
            Q So what was -- what was the purpose
 10
       of the discussion with him?
 11
            A I think in the end, it was just
 12
       more fact-finding on our end. We were
 13
       getting feedback from him as to why not.
 14
       Nothing came of it.
 15
                So during meetings, did they relay
 16
       concerns that they had with Ripple -- with
 17
 18
       Ripple and their XRP sales?
        A Not -- not -- not in particular
 19
 20
       with respect to XRP sales. It was just more
 21
       general concern around lack of visibility and
       the risk that Ripple basically provided to
 22
       the market. Not provided -- I can't find the
 23
 24
       word.
               Were they concerned that Ripple
 25
            Q
```

```
182
1
       would sell its holdings into the market at
  2
       any point?
            A I don't think they were concerned
3
4
       that we would do that. I think what they
5
       intimated to us was that there was concern by
6
       the market, generally, that that was a
       possibility. We had had a situation like
7
8
       that previously with Jed McCaleb. So -- and
9
       I think I remember
                          saying, "Well, you
       know, what is stopping another Jed" -- I
 10
       think he used that as an example.
 11
            Q Who is Jed McCaleb?
 12
            A Jed is one of the cofounders of
 13
 14
       Ripple.
 15
            Q And what was the concern concerning
       him?
 16
            A Jed -- and I was not part of any of
 17
 18
       this. I wasn't at the company, at least from
 19
       public -- from what I read in the public
 20
       sphere. After a falling out with the rest of
 21
       the leadership with Ripple, he threatened to
       sell all of his XRP holdings.
 22
 23
            Q How much XRP did he have at the
       time that he made that threat?
 24
 25
            A I think at the time he had seven
```

```
183
       billion XRP.
1
  2
            Q Did you have an understanding of
       how he came to have seven billion?
3
4
         A I just -- I -- actually, I don't
5
       know. I think it had something to do with --
6
       I don't know. I don't know, actually.
7
            Q So during the meeting, did
               discuss the concern -- a concern that
 8
9
       someone might sell a large amount of XRP into
       the market?
10
            A He was really discussing loss. And
 11
 12
       I think he used Jed as an example. He was
 13
       discussing the company.
            Q And was -- what was the specific --
 14
       what was -- what would be problematic with
 15
       Ripple selling a large amount of XRP into the
 16
 17
       market?
18
               Well, I mean, if we sold sixty
       billion XRP into the market in one fell
 19
 20
       swoop, that would absolutely decimate the
 21
       price. And then --
 22
            Q So that was a concern?
 23
                 That's a concern, yes. I mean,
       specifically with
 24
                              because what we are
 25
       talking about is a fund that he's trying to
```

184 1 launch. 2 Q And what would the fund hold? A XR -- well, we were discussing the 3 4 XRP. He had one for Ethereum Classic and 5 Bitcoin. 6 So during this meeting, what else 7 did you discuss with in addition to the concern that Ripple would sell its holdings 8 9 and decimate the price of XRP? A We -- he -- he did -- I remember 10 11 him mentioning -- he suggested that we should destroy all of our XRP. I remember that. 12 13 Q What was the reaction? A No. Could you imagine going into 14 De Beers and being like, "Can you just throw 15 out all of your diamonds? Just get rid of 16 them. You don't need them." 17 Q How valuable was the XRP to the 18 19 company? 20 A At the time, the XRP wasn't worth very much. I don't remember what it was exactly. But I think it was around -- it was 22 23 sub a penny, I think, at that point still. 24 Q Did the company believe that at some point, it would become more valuable? 25

185 1 A Yes. How would it become more valuable? 2 0 A Over time it would increase in 3 price as it gained in option. 4 Q We spoke about earlier that there 5 6 was really no adoption prior to the 7 introduction of xRapid in late 2018. And we also spoke about the increase in price during 8 2017. 9 So in your opinion, what has led to 10 11 that price increase? 12 MR. CERESNEY: Just on the first 13 part of that, I'm not sure he said there was 14 no adoption before xRapid was introduced. I 15 think he said Ripple was selling and he used XRP until --16 17 Yeah. Ripple's use case. Our use case hadn't -- we mentioned, I don't know 18 19 what was happening in the rest of the market. 20 Q Okay. Prior to XRP -- xRapid 21 becoming commercially available, what do you 22 think accounted for the increase in price for 23 XRP? I mean, if you look at '17 and '18 24 A and even '19, it's pretty clear the market 25

```
186
       moves together. So Bitcoin will often lead
 1
  2
       and then the rest of the space will follow.
       If you look at the run up in April, May of
3
4
        '17, the whole space -- and Brad mentions it
5
       in the e-mail. And the whole space rallies.
6
       And the whole space comes off.
                 And then if you look at December of
7
        '17, the same thing. The whole space
 8
9
       rallies, comes off. So it -- it -- there's a
 10
       high correlation to the rest of the
       cryptocurrency markets. So if you believe in
 11
 12
       crypto, as we clearly did, then you would
 13
       have no reason to not to expect some sort of
 14
       increase over time.
                 Okay. We can talk more about that
 15
       a little later. I want to go back to this
 16
       meeting --
 17
18
                Okay.
            A
                 -- with
                                               that
 19
 20
       you had.
 21
                 Did they -- other than burning the
 22
       XRP, did they have any other recommendations
 23
       as to how to resolve the concerns by market
 24
       participants over Ripple's holdings?
 25
            A This is the one that I think where
```

187 Patrick mentioned "Well, what if we wrote a 1 2 markets report detailing how much we were doing in the market. How much we are 3 4 selling." So that we kind of remove -- not 5 remove, but lessen the risk and give more 6 visibility into what we are doing as the 7 largest holder. Q Did you also discuss during that 8 9 meeting, locking up Ripple's XRP? A At that time, I don't think so. I 10 mean, it was -- this is pre -- this is 11 pre-lock up discussions. 12 13 Q So one of the ways -- one of the recommendations was to become more 14 15 transparent in what the company was doing? 16 A Yes. Did you discuss the concern over 17 lack of visibility and clarity with others 18 19 other than and A I don't -- I don't remember. I 20 don't think so. That -- that conversation 21 definitely stands out. 22 23 Did you discuss during that meeting earlier in time, how the reports would --24 25 whether the increase in transparency would

have an effect on the market and what effect it would have?

A Not in specifics. The conversation always revolved around confidence in XRP markets as a viable market. Remember our customer base or user base is companies, so MoneyGrams, the It's possibly --

Q I'm talking about during this time period. MoneyGram wasn't --

A No. No. But my point is, during this period, the conversation certainly revolves around "Okay. So how do we instill confidence in XRP broadly because our customers need to have confidence in XRP."

The use case for XRP is a bridge asset. So it predates my joining the company. I think this is something they were working on for a long time.

And -- yeah. I can't remember when the meeting was. But it was right around the time that xRapid and its current guys were designed, so these things were all interconnected. We were not going to be able to go to a company like MoneyGram and say,

189 1 "Hey, use this." If they weren't confident, then okay, this is a developed market if you 2 will. And part of a developed market, 3 ostensibly when you have a large holder, some 4 things are going to become visible. At least 5 6 that was our thinking. 7 Did you ever discuss whether Ripple's efforts, the disclosure of Ripple's 8 efforts in the market to develop the product 9 10 and to create liquidity, would ultimately be reflected in XRP's price? 11 12 A We did. Q And how would it be reflected in 13 the price? 14 15 I mean this is a conversation that we had many times over xRapid in particular. 16 17 XRabbit is a demanding true use case. You 18 buy XRP, you move it somewhere and then you 19 sell it. There has been no purchase of XRP. 20 That in and of itself should not drive 21 appreciation of the asset. At twenty cents, 22 let's say, you trade three trillion dollars 23 through this. Okay, great. 24 So there was a -- kind of this general idea that over time as it became more 25

of a currency if you will, and possibly used for other things besides this particular use case, there could be appreciation.

- Q Okay. So that makes sense. You know, there's a limited supply of XRP. The more it's in demand, there could be an increase in the price of XRP.
- A Right. Except that our primary use case is the main withdrawal. So our primary use is, you buy it here, you sell it here.

 That is not going to create directly -- from a price mechanism perspective, there's no change in the demand or the supply.
- Q But prior to, you know, the increase and adoption of the XRP of xRapid, did you discuss whether, you know, key announcements or key developments by the company would move XRP's price?
- A Not announcements. I think around the lock up, there was discussions as to whether or not there would be an impact on the price.
- Q And what kind of -- what discussions did you have around the lock up

```
191
   1
       impacting the XRP price?
            A The assumption was if we restricted
   2
       the supply, there would be an increase in
   3
       price.
   4
           Q Why would it have a positive impact
   5
   6
       on price?
  7
           A Again, we are removing risk. So
       now the -- the probability that the largest
  8
       holder of XRP can just turn around and sell
  9
       it all in one fell swoop is gone. So that's
10
11
       just one -- we have now -- we have -- we
12
       provide less risk to the market as a result.
 13
         Q Were there other instances where
       the company -- other events that had a
 14
 15
       positive impact on XRP price?
            A We didn't say that.
 16
 17
            Q Okay.
 18
            A
                 Yeah.
                 Were there other instances where
  19
            Q
       you discussed doing something and you thought
 20
       it would have an impact, a positive impact on
  21
 22
       the price?
 23
            A
                 No.
 24
            Q Going back to the XRP reports. You
      said you were involved in the decision to
  25
```

```
192
       start issuing the reports. The discussions
1
       started sometime in early 2017.
  2
                 Mm-hmm.
3
            A
4
                 Did you discuss it with -- in
5
       addition -- other than discussing it with
                      did you discuss it with Brad?
6
7
                 I don't remember. I don't recall
            A
       discussing the -- like the initial launch or
 8
9
       the creation of the reports?
                 The decision to issue --
 10
 11
                 To publish the reports, I don't
       remember discussing it with Brad. I do
 12
       remember discussing it with Patrick.
 13
 14
            Q Was everyone in favor of it?
 15
            A
                Everyone?
                 Well -- was anyone not in favor of
 16
       the publishing the report?
 17
         A
                I don't remember anyone pushing
 18
 19
       back.
                Were there any downsides to
 20
       publishing the report?
 22
            A
                 I had to write the report.
 23
            Q
                 Did you draft the report?
 24
            A
                 In the beginning, yes.
 25
            0
                 When did that change?
```

```
193
            A I think that changed in late '17.
1
                 Did someone draft it with you?
  2
       What changed in late '17?
3
4
            A So we hired
                                           I can't
5
       remember his title. But he started, he had a
6
       markets background, so he started to draft
       the copy. My team would still provide data
7
       around the sales.
 8
9
                 Prior to him doing that, were you
       the sole drafter of the report?
 10
 11
                 No. So everything -- not
 12
       everything. But generally speaking,
       documents like these are collaborative at
 13
 14
       Ripple. So I would create a first draft and
       then I would send that either to Marketing or
 15
       Legal. I forget the exact order. And then
 16
       Patrick would have a look, and then Brad
 17
       would have a look.
 18
            Q Your name is the only name on the
 19
       report, before
                           joined.
 20
 21
                 Is there any reason you were the
 22
       only person listed if it was drafted by
 23
       multiple people?
            A I don't -- I don't remember.
 24
 25
                 Was the report reviewed by Brad?
            Q
```

```
194
           A Yeah. Yes.
   1
                 Was it reviewed by Chris Larsen?
   2
           0
   3
            A
                 Not that I'm aware of, no.
   4
            Q Did you determine what information
       to include in the report?
   5
   6
           A Initially, again, first draft.
       Then it would be edited.
  7
                 Did each report contain the same
  8
       information every quarter? Did it have a
  9
10
       structure?
            A Not in the beginning. I think
11
12
      eventually it got to a more structured
13
       format. But not that first year. Certainly,
       sales and loans, would have been in there
14
15
       pretty consistently.
                 What other information did you
 16
       think was relevant or important to include?
 17
 18
            A So volume statistics, listings,
  19
       exchanges, any partnerships around -- again,
 20
       first one, I don't even think we called it
       xRapid. I mean, partnerships for xRapid the
  21
  22
       use case around bridge asset use.
  23
                 MR. CERESNEY: Good time for a
  24
      break.
  25
                 MS. WAXMAN: Sure. It's 12:57. We
```

```
195
   1
        are off the record.
                 MR. CERESNEY: 2:57.
   2
                 MS. WAXMAN: 2:57.
   3
                  (A brief recess was taken.)
   4
                 MS. WAXMAN: We are back on the
   5
   6
        record at 3:08.
   7
                 Mr. Vias, while we were off the
        record, did you have any conversations with
  8
  9
        the staff.
10
                 THE WITNESS: No.
11
                 Before the break, we were talking
12
      about the decision to issue XRP market
 13
        reports. I want to turn now to the decision
       to lock up Ripple's XRP.
 14
                 Were you involved in that decision?
 15
                 I was.
  16
            A
                 What was your involvement?
 17
 18
                 I was -- I worked along with
  19
        Patrick in putting together the proposal.
 20
            Q What was your proposal?
  21
            A The proposal was to
 22
        cryptographically freeze fifty-five billion
 23
        of the XRPs in monthly tranches. So we'd --
 24
        for fifty-five months, we'd have the XRP
        locked up. And then every month, a billion
  25
```

would unlock. We would have access to that XRP. And then whatever is left over, we'd put back on the queue, if you will, and lock it up begin.

- Q Why did you recommend that? Why did you recommend that Ripple lock up the XRP?
- A So referencing I think the conversation was "You guys should just destroy all your XRP." We weren't going to do that. But again, this idea of visibility and competence in XRP markets, we felt pretty strongly that, again, this risk that the company could just turn around and sell its XRP would constantly be a challenge.

So if we could -- if we could give certainty in terms of what was available to us to sell at any given time without completely having to destroy all of it, seemed like the right thing to do. So this is what we came up with.

Q When did you initiate those conversations about the lock up or when did you have those conversations about the lock up?

197 1 A It was early 2017. 0 So --2 I can't remember exactly when we 3 A started. 4 Q So the lock up -- since it was 5 6 discussed in 2017, was the lock up to provide 7 certainty, more certainty for speculators in 8 XRP? It was one group. But it was for 9 A the market at large. You know, the -- again, 10 this idea of building confidence for our 11 12 enterprise use bridge case over time was 13 important. Us selling the XRP, if we had all of it at our disposal, we would try to beat 14 our low price, but it would create a ton of 15 16 volatility. So again, going back to the xRapid 17 use case, which was alive and well before I 18 19 started, and was the goal of doing this the 20 whole time. If you are going to move money 21 through XRP, you buy one leg, move it over 22 and then you sell it on the other. If 23 there's big price dislocations from when you 24 buy it to when you sell it, that creates problems. So confidence in kind of stable 25

```
198
       XRP market was important. We thought this
  1
       was a way to move towards that goal.
  2
                            (SEC Exhibit No. 25 was
  3
4
                           marked for
5
                           identification.)
6
                 I'm showing you what's been marked
       as Exhibit 25. Which is an e-mail from you
7
                 dated 5/1/2017. Subject is
 8
       to
9
       "Proposal." And there's an attachment,
       "Executive summary of XRP proposal." Take a
 10
 11
       look at it and let me know when you are done.
 12
                 (The witness examined the
 13
       document.)
 14
            A Okay.
                 Is this a proposal you were talking
 15
       about earlier?
 16
 17
            A
                 Yes.
 18
                 Did you draft this proposal?
            Q
                 Yes, in collaboration with Patrick.
 19
            A
 20
            Q
                 Was the proposal circulated beyond
 21
 22
            A
                 Yes.
 23
                 Who were the proposals circulated?
 24
            A
                 I don't remember everyone that the
 25
       proposal was circulated to. But I know Brad,
```

```
200
   1
       that comes from the more active speculation,
       the purpose of that is in the long run for
   2
   3
       payments.
           Q So you want to increase
   4
        speculation, which would help liquidity?
   5
   6
          A
                 Yes.
   7
                 How much did you think the price of
            Q
       XRP would increase as a result of the escrow?
  8
           A I don't -- I don't remember
  9
       having -- I don't think I have any hard
10
 11
       numbers in my head. But we put it in the
12
       proposal.
 13
            Q What page are you talking about?
           A What page is this -- page three or
14
       four -- three.
15
                So what price increase did you
 16
       indicate in the proposal?
 17
 18
            A We thought it would go from four
 19
       cents, at the time, to ten cents.
 20
           Q How did you come up with that ten
  21
       cents amount?
 22
                 I don't remember, to be honest with
           A
 23
       you.
 24
           Q
                That's more than double.
           A Yes. For context, I mean, it had
  25
```

```
201
 1
      just gone from half a penny to four cents.
      It had multiplied by eight. I think Bitcoin
 2
      had just done something similar. I can't
 3
      remember. I remember Bitcoin rallied at the
 4
      same time.
 5
 6
           Q Going back to the first page of the
 7
      proposal, under the heading "Proposal
      overview." It says, "Marketing survey results
 8
 9
      indicate the primary objective to buy
      centered around uncertainty with Ripple's
10
      holdings."
11
12
                Who conducted marketing surveys?
13
      Did the company conduct them?
                I don't -- I don't remember.
14
15
           Q Going to the third page of the
      proposal. In the middle, it says,
16
      "Continuing down the road of building XRP
17
      markets without speculator interest is
18
19
      unlikely to lead in the necessary liquidity
20
      for payments."
21
                Why was that?
                I'm sorry, can you tell me --
22
          A
23
           Q
                Sorry --
24
           A
               Okay. Sorry.
25
                MR. CERESNEY: The second page.
```

202 Right here (indicating). 1 0 A Right here. Right. 2 Well, I mean, as it says, large 3 markets, established markets, the kind of 4 markets that I came from, gold and FX all had 5 6 speculator interest. The idea that we were 7 going to be able to build something 8 comparable without a significant amount of speculator interest didn't seem unreasonable. 9 10 MR. DANIELS: Just turn to the last 11 page with the Bates ending 25378. This is a 12 related question. 13 So you list a bunch of questions 14 for discussion. Number four is, "Have we 15 answered the question on the need for speculator to drive long-term liquidity?" 16 Do you recall any discussion around 17 that issue? 18 19 THE WITNESS: I don't. 20 MR. DANIELS: "For example, is 21 there a scenario where we skip the speculator 22 stage, get large payment volume and build 23 liquidity on the back of commercial flows?" 24 Do you recall any discussion about that. 25

```
203
   1
                THE WITNESS: I don't.
                 MR. DANIELS: Is that something
   2
        that you had seen in the other markets that
   3
   4
        you had looked at?
   5
                 THE WITNESS: No.
   6
                MR. DANIELS: So the speculator --
   7
        speculators driving long-term liquidity was a
        constant in those types of markets? Did it
   8
   9
       ever decrease?
                 THE WITNESS: I don't -- that's a
 10
       broad question. But what I would say I don't
 11
12
        know of any large established financial
  13
        market that doesn't have a significant amount
       of speculator later volume.
  14
  15
                 MR. DANIELS: Okay. In talking
  16
        about this, were you envisioning a stage
  17
        where there wouldn't be a large speculator
       volume for XRP?
  18
  19
                 THE WITNESS: Not just relatively,
  20
        possibly smaller. So if we get to the point
  21
        where we have large commercial flows --
  22
        again, MoneyGram just recently did a hundred
  23
        million dollars worth of payments through
  24
        xRapid. If we start to get to that scale,
        then even if the speculator volume is very
  25
```

```
204
       big, relatively speaking, over time it should
1
  2
       shrink as a percentage of the toll.
            Q When did -- so this e-mail is from
3
4
       May 2017. Did the company announce that it
5
       would put the XRP into escrow?
                 It did.
6
            A
                 Did that announcement have an
7
       affect on the price of XRP?
 8
            A I don't know. I don't know if it
9
       did or it didn't. I do remember that after
10
       we announced, the price started to go down.
 11
       But I can't -- I don't know if those two are
 12
 13
       related.
        Q You don't recall a price increase
 14
 15
       after the announcement?
 16
            A
                 No.
                          (SEC Exhibit No. 26 was
 17
                          marked for
 18
                           identification.)
 19
 20
                 I'm showing you what's been marked
 21
       as Exhibit 26. It's an e-mail chain. The
       very top is an e-mail from you to
 22
 23
               , dated May 8, 2017. The subject is
 24
       "Re: XRP markets update."
 25
                 (The witness examined the
```

```
205
       document.)
   1
            A Okay.
   2
   3
                 Did the price of XRP increase based
       on chatter about the lock up?
   4
                 I don't know.
   5
           Q Does this e-mail refresh your
   6
   7
       memory as to whether or not it increased
       based on chatter about the lock up?
  8
  9
           A It's what I state in the e-mail.
10
         Q The very top of the e-mail, the
11
       bottom e-mail, May 7th, you say, "While the
12
       initial" -- and you are talking about XRP
 13
       price. You say, "This weekend, price
       activity seems to be driven by speculation
 14
15
       around the lock up."
                 Do you have any reason to believe
 16
 17
       that that wasn't what you were thinking --
 18
      wasn't true at that time? Those weren't your
 19
       thoughts?
 20
            A Those are my thoughts. I can't say
       with certainty.
  21
 22
           Q Why did you write that? How did
 23
       you know -- why did you write that?
 24
           A
                 It's -- I used to -- these are
  25
       markets reports I used to write to the
```

206 1 leadership. Trying to give them color as to what was happening in the markets. At the 2 time, it seemed reasonable. 3 Q What did you base that statement 4 on? Was that -- why -- did you have any 5 reason to make that statement? 6 7 Just -- sorry. I -- I don't A remember what this link is. But there was 8 clearly chatter around the lock up before we 9 10 were going to do it. And the market was rallying at the same time. It seemed to make 11 12 sense. 13 Q Well, the e-mail says that the activity -- the increase in prices related to 14 the speculation about -- around the lock up. 15 Yes. It says it "seems to be 16 A driven by" -- at the same time, looking back 17 18 on it now, there were a lot of other things 19 happening at the same time with respect to 20 crypto markets. That's fine. I just want to focus 21 on the e-mail. At the time, that's what you 22 23 thought. You thought that the price increase 24 was driven by the speculation around the lock up? 25

207 1 A Yes. Then you write, "Looking back at 2 0 the six or seven weeks, it's clear that the 3 chatter around the lock up has played a very 4 important role in XRP's appreciation." 5 6 When you say, "XRP's appreciation," 7 are you talking about a price appreciation? A Yes. 8 Then you say, "During this time, 9 10 Ripple has made some significant announcements around RCO, futures and 11 12 increased customer traction. That good news 13 has certainly helped markets gain faith in XRP and has accelerated the rally." 14 15 Then you go on to cite news that didn't move the price of XRP. Then you say, 16 quote, "In fact, XRP didn't appreciate 17 18 significantly until March 22nd, the day after 19 the Epicenter podcast where we mention the 20 possibility of a lock up for the first time. 21 Paren (forty/thirty.) That day, XRP rallied 22 fifty percent of twenty-five million of 23 volume." 24 Do you remember -- what is the Epicenter podcast? 25

```
208
           A That was a podcast that I did where
       we were talking about XRP and Ripple.
   2
            Q Did you discuss the possibility of
   3
       a lock up?
   4
               Yeah, I mentioned it. Yes.
   5
  6
           Q At the time you wrote this e-mail,
  7
       was it your belief that that mention had
       impacted the price -- the mention of the lock
 8
 9
       up had impacted the price?
           A Yeah. I mean, the day after it
10
11
       rallied, something -- it may have had
12
       something to do with it.
13
           Q That was your assumption?
14
           A Yes.
15
           Q Again, what was that assumption
       based on?
 16
       A The day after the podcast, the
 17
      market rallied.
18
 19
            Q Was it based your review of the
      market that day?
 20
 21
           A Yeah. I would have looked at the
22
       price.
 23
          Q What else did you look at?
 24
          A
                What I always look at, the price
      and the volume.
  25
```

```
209
                           (SEC Exhibit No. 27 was
   1
   2
                          marked for
                          identification.)
   3
                 I'm showing you what has been
   4
            0
       marked as Exhibit 27, which is an audio
   5
  6
       transcript of your Epicenter podcast on that
   7
       day.
  8
            A Thank you.
  9
           Q Why don't you take a couple minutes
       to read through it.
10
11
                (The witness examined the
12
       document.)
            A Sorry. I'm a slow reader.
13
           Q That's okay. I could use a break.
14
15
       That's fine with me. Are you ready?
           A I need one more page.
  16
            Q Okay. No problem.
 17
                 (The witness examined the
18
       document.)
  19
                 MR. CERESNEY: Okay?
 20
  21
           A Okay.
  22
                Okay. So if you turn to page
           Q
  23
      eighteen of the transcript --
                 MR. CERESNEY: To be clear, is that
  24
       page eighteen on the bottom or page eighteen
  25
```

```
210
        in the actual text? Like here (indicating)?
   1
                 MS. WAXMAN: Well, there's page
   2
   3
        numbers at the bottom.
                 MR. CERESNEY: Because there's
   4
        transcript pages, too.
   5
   6
                 MS. WAXMAN: Oh. Okay.
                 MR. CERESNEY: Got it?
   7
                 THE WITNESS: Mm-hmm.
  8
                 Does this -- I'm just going to read
  9
            Q
10
        into the record what you said about the
11
        escrow.
               "So I think one of" -- quote, "So I
12
13
       think one of the things that we struggle with
14
        is the fact that there's no supply scheduled
15
        for XRP. It's just like this lump sum of XRP
  16
        sits over at Ripple Labs and people are like,
        "What are you going to do with that? What
  17
  18
        are you guys do going to do with that?" I'm
        starting to think about maybe putting some
  19
  20
        real structure around the supply schedule and
  21
        figuring out a way of maybe cryptographically
        we can do that to placate some of the
  22
  23
        controversy and fears around the supply."
  24
               Did that mention of the potential
  25
       of a lock up -- is that what you are
```

```
211
   1
        referencing in your e-mail that's been marked
        as Exhibit 26?
   2
             A It is.
   3
                  It's a long interview. And I want
   4
        to ask you some questions about the
   5
   6
        interview. But first, I want to focus more on
   7
        the document.
                Going back to Exhibit number 26, in
   8
        the middle of the second page you wrote,
   9
10
        "Likely even more important was this post by
        David on March 26th. Given his standing in
  11
12
        the community and the company, it's likely
  13
       the markets took much comfort in his
        comments. As a result, the conversation of a
 14
 15
        lock up has continued until today."
                  What David are you referring to?
  16
  17
           A
                  David Schwartz.
                            (SEC Exhibit No. 28 was
  18
  19
                            marked for
  20
                            identification.)
            Q I'm showing you what has been
  21
  22
        marked as Exhibit 28. Which was the post
  23
        that was linked to this e-mail, which was
        marked as Exhibit 26. And it's -- if you
  24
        look to -- there's a post by David Schwartz
  25
```

```
212
   1
        under the user handle JoelKatz around page
       seven of the exhibit.
   2
   3
                 MR. CERESNEY: Just read his post.
                 THE WITNESS: Okay.
   4
                 (The witness examined the
   5
        document.)
   6
   7
            Q Going back to the e-mail which has
        been marked as Exhibit 26, any reason to
  8
        believe this wasn't the post you were
  9
10
        referencing?
11
            A No.
            Q You said, "Given David's standing
12
13
        in the community, it's likely the markets
        took much comfort in his comments."
 14
 15
                 What do you mean "the markets took
        comfort in his comments"? What does that
  16
 17
        mean?
 18
                 He's talking about supply
  19
       predictability, a clear supply schedule. We
 20
       talked about the idea of enacting the escrow
  21
        in order to remove the lack of clarity, the
        lack of the security, in terms of our actions
  22
  23
       in the market. So I meant his saying that
  24
       was providing more clarity, more confidence.
           Q Did it have an effect on the price
  25
```

213 1 of XRP? A I don't know. 2 Q Did you -- in the e-mail, did you 3 say whether or not it had an effect on the 4 price? 5 6 I said I thought it did, yes. 7 If you go further down on the e-mail, you write, "Now this is not to say 8 that the chance of a lock up is the only 9 10 reason XRP is trading almost fifteen cents 11 after being worth less than .01 for almost 12 two years straight. As I mentioned before, 13 this year has been filled with good Ripple news. The difference, however, has been that 14 15 after March 22nd good Ripple news has been great for XRP, a phenomenon we hadn't really 16 seen before." 17 18 Can you explain that? 19 Yeah. Reading this again -- so in 20 order for -- the thinking around this is there's been more of positive news to give 21 22 priced into the market. There has to be some 23 confidence in that market. Otherwise, the --24 any positive news get discounted. Q So how -- what created the 25

```
214
       confidence in the news that Ripple was
   1
       disseminating?
   2
            A I don't know that there was
   3
       confidence.
   4
        Q Well, you say, "Ripple news has
   5
   6
       been great for XRP." Let's unpack that.
   7
               What do you mean "has been great
       for XRP"? Having a positive impact on the
 8
       price XRP?
 9
10
           A That's what I'm saying here, yes.
11
            Q You are saying that hasn't been the
12
      case prior to now?
13
           A Mm-hmm.
            Q What do you think has changed?
14
15
           A Again, putting these two things in
       kind of context with the e-mail, maybe
  16
       supply, clarity and confidence in the market
 17
       and as a result, good news for this price
 18
 19
       line.
 20
           Q
                Was the supply clarity something
       that would happen as a result of the
  21
 22
       escrow -- the lock up?
  23
            A
                Possibly, yeah.
 24
           Q So you -- you go on to say, "For
       what it's worth, I think the possibility of
  25
```

215 1 supply clarity has given markets less of a reason to sell into rallies and has fueled 2 speculation. Which has turbocharged our 3 announcements, by allowing the market to 4 properly price in good news about the 5 6 company." 7 Then you go on to say, "Lastly, and possibly most importantly, all this activity 8 has brought a renewed focus on XRP 9 10 internally. And externally, focus that will help us achieve our goal of making XRP the 11 12 digital standard for payments. Higher prices 13 are great economically, but attention means more listings, more partnerships and more 14 15 adoptions. All of which will propel XRP forward and upward." 16 When you say, "upward," are you 17 18 referring to an increase in price? 19 A Yes. 20 You say that there was "a renewed 21 focus on XRP internally." 22 What was the renewed focus? 23 So I mention this in the podcast, 24 where in 2015 and 2016, on the back of the FinCEN finding, the enterprise used case for 25

216 Ripple had it focused more and more on the 1 messaging layer on RippleNet and less on XRP. 2 3 So there was still -- at that time, it still felt like the majority of the 4 company -- I'm not going to venture to guess 5 6 percentages, but the majority of the company 7 were still mostly focused on the enterprise software product for messaging and still 8 hadn't -- bought into the new form of the 9 10 bridge asset use case, which is with xRapid. 11 So this is March of 2017, we had a 12 new design for xRapid. So in order for 13 xRapid to work, you need XRP to work. This 14 will be helpful in kind of reorienting some 15 of the internal focus on that RippleNet 16 product, more on XRP and xRapid. 17 So the RippleNet products, prior to this time, did they use XRP? 18 19 A Not that I'm aware of, no. 20 Q They were messaging? 21 A They were messaging, yeah. 22 For messaging. 0 You say, "Higher prices are great 23 24 economically." How would Ripple benefit from 25

```
217
   1
       higher XRP prices?
               We own a lot of XRP. So same if we
   2
        owned oil fields, if we owned gold reserves,
   3
        if we owned any asset, if the price went up,
   4
        it was good for us.
   5
   6
          Q Is that because the company was
   7
       valued at a higher amount?
           A I mean, I'm not a venture
 8
        capitalist, but I'm a guy with BC companies.
  9
10
       But if you have an asset and it's worth more
11
       money, then ostensibly the company should be
12
       worth more money.
 13
           Q
                 If you sell the XRP that you own at
14
        a higher price, the company gets more money
       for operations?
15
                 If you can sell more.
  16
            A
                 Did the company take advantage of
  17
       the price increase at this time?
  18
  19
           A What did you mean?
  20
                 Did they increase their
       programmatic sales?
  21
  22
                 Yeah -- it's in there somewhere --
  23
        it's in here somewhere. I'll find it.
  24
          (The witness examined the
        document.)
  25
```

218 1 A 02. Q Q2 of 2017? 2 3 A Yes. 4 0 It increased from Q1 to Q2? A Yes. 5 6 Okay. Q 7 Again, that's volume-based. price is increasing, but the volumes are 8 staggering. They're increasing by multiples. 9 10 Q Right. But there was a subjective 11 decision made every quarter to determine how 12 much programmatic -- how many XRP was sold 13 prior to programmatically? A Correct. I guess my point is, 14 15 this -- these sales did not increase because the price increased. These sales increased 16 because the volume increased. We would have 17 18 had the same increase in sales if the price 19 had been flat and the volume had just 20 increased to the same level. 21 Are you sure about that? Because 0 22 we had a whole conversation earlier that you 23 had a weekly meeting, and that during the 24 weekly meeting there were discussions on how much XRP you could sell programmatically. So 25

```
219
       it seems to me that there was some discussion
   1
       into that decision that it -- it fluctuated,
   2
   3
       the amounts. And based on this chart, it
       looks like the amounts changed.
   4
   5
          A They do --
   6
           Q Regardless of the change in volume.
   7
            A No. The primary driver of our XRP
       sales is volume. I mean a hundred percent.
 8
          Q
                Okay. So not increases in price?
  9
10
           A
                 No.
11
            0
                 Okay.
12
           A No. I mean, you can see that
13
       clearly in Q1 and Q2. The price is going
       down. And volumes -- like our sales are
14
 15
       increasing because the volumes are increasing
 16
       in core market cap.
 17
        Q How do you know those prices are
 18
       going down in Q1 and Q2?
                 I just remember it. It had been
  19
 20
       going down for a year.
           Q What year are you talking about?
  21
 22
           A
                119.
 23
           Q
                Of 2019?
 24
                 Yeah. So if you look at '19, we
       have massive XRP sales.
  25
```

220 1 O Right. In comparison, it has everything to 2 do with volume. 3 Q Were there other announcements that 4 you felt had an impact on the XRP price? 5 6 Similar to the chatter. 7 A Again, to be clear, we didn't announce anything. This was all speculation 8 on my part with respect to the rumors that 9 10 the market was hearing. 11 Q Wait. This was speculation on your 12 part? 13 A Speculation on the market's part. Q Well, you are representative of 14 15 Ripple. MR. CERESNEY: I think he's saying 16 the market was speculating based on his 17 18 comments. 19 THE WITNESS: Right. And on 20 David's. 21 MR. CERESNEY: And David's 22 comments. 23 A There was no guarantee that we were 24 going to do anything. Clearly. We were discussing it at length for a month and a 25

```
221
   1
       half.
          Q Sure. I do want to get back to the
   2
       interview. But I want to put it aside for a
   3
      minute. We'll ask you some additional
   4
       questions on it.
   5
  6
          A Okay.
  7
                          (SEC Exhibit No. 29 was
                         marked for
 8
                         identification.)
 9
10
               THE WITNESS: Can I grab some
11
      water?
        MS. WAXMAN: Let's go off the
12
13
      record at 4:11.
              (A brief recess was taken.)
14
                        (SEC Exhibit Nos. 30
15
                        through 33 were marked
 16
                         for identification.)
17
              MS. WAXMAN: We are back on the
18
 19
      record at 4:21.
20
               Mr. Vias, while we were off the
       record, did you have any conversations with
 21
22
       the staff?
              THE WITNESS: No.
 23
         Q I'd like to show you what's been
 24
       marked as Exhibit number 33. It's an e-mail
  25
```

```
222
       from you to
                              dated May 17, 2017.
1
  2
       Subject is "Re: Questions for
      article."
3
4
               (The witness examined the
5
       document.)
6
           A Okay.
7
           Q Okay. Do you know who
8
       is?
9
        A
                    worked in our marketing
       department.
 10
        Q Okay. So she worked in-house at
 11
       Ripple?
 12
 13
          A Yes.
        Q It looks like she sent you some
 14
       questions from a journalist.
 15
                Yes. I -- I -- actually, I don't
         A
 16
 17
       know who
                          and I don't know what
                   is.
 18
           Q Sounds like a German newspaper to
 19
 20
       me or a German publication.
 21
        A Major business title -- yeah, I
 22
       don't know.
 23
           Q You provided answers to certain
 24
       questions.
                Do you know if -- what you did with
 25
```

223 1 your answers? 2 A I don't. Q One more question she poses "What 3 is behind the recent price surge of XRP?" The 4 5 date of the e-mail is 5/17 and it's just 6 falling on the heels of Exhibit 26, which is dated May 7th and May 8, 2017. 7 You write, "Confluence of events, 8 9 certainly the general rallying digital assets has helped. But in many ways, XRP has 10 actually led the rally for a few specific 11 12 reasons. This year, Ripple has been much 13 more vocal about how XRP fits into the 14 company's broader narrative, which has helped to clearly define its use case. I think this 15 to more clearly see the has allowed 16 long-term potential and its value of XRP." 17 18 When you talking about the value of 19 the XRP, are you talking about the price of 20 the XRP in the markets? 21 A Yes. It's in response to the question. 22 23 Q Why do you think the company has 24 led -- at the time, why did you think that 25 XRP led the rally?

```
224
                 I don't know. I don't remember.
   1
                 Okay. I'm showing you what's been
   2
        marked as Exhibit 29, which is a copy of the
   3
        XRP reports, first quarter in 2017. It's
   4
        dated April 18, 2017 and it has your name as
   5
   6
        the author.
  7
            A
                 Mm-hmm.
                 (The witness examined the
  8
  9
        document.)
10
            A
                 Okay.
                 Okay. Great.
 11
            0
12
                 Why did you talk about -- why did
 13
        you mention the increase in XRP's price in
 14
       the report?
 15
           A It's a markets report. It's an XRP
       markets report. So the two things that you
  16
       would discuss are price and volume.
 17
 18
           Q And what do you think -- in the
  19
        report, did you discuss the reason for the
 20
        increase in price? So on the third page of
  21
        the report it says, "On March 23rd, XRP
 22
        rallied from point .0072 to .011 to a
 23
       fifty-six percent price increase."
 24
               Does the report discuss what caused
  25
       the increase in price?
```

225 A It mentions a few things that we 1 think may have had an impact. 2 Q Did the -- did Ripple news have an 3 impact on price? 4 Yeah. I think at the time it did. 5 6 Short verse if you will. 7 Q And any announcements in particular in this quarter? 8 9 A I don't remember any particular 10 ones that had an impact. 11 MR. CERESNEY: You mean other than the ones that are listed here? 12 13 MS. WAXMAN: Yeah. THE WITNESS: To be honest, I don't 14 15 even know if these had an impact. Q I'm sorry. I can't hear you. 16 A I'm not even sure if these had an 17 18 impact. 19 Q Well, you wrote in a report -- are 20 you saying that the information in the report 21 may not be accurate or truthful? A Well, no. What I'm saying is, in 22 23 hindsight, if you look at these markets in 2017, they were tiny. Highly liquid. Not 24 very well developed. And, you know, over the 25

```
226
       last two and a half years, we've had dozens,
   1
       dozens of announcements. And haven't had any
   2
        impact on the price. So I have tons of data
   3
   4
       points where we announce something and
       nothing happens.
   5
           Q Right. But I'm talking about
   6
  7
       this --
            A Right. Right.
 8
            Q -- this report. At the time this
  9
       was written and it was published, did you
10
       have any reason to believe that you didn't
 11
12
       believe that these announcements had an
13
       impact on the price?
            A Well, again, I wasn't the sole -- I
 14
15
       wasn't the sole author of this report. For
       instance, this last bullet point, I'm --
  16
        Q What bullet point are you talking
  17
       about?
 18
  19
            A
                "Ripple will continue to sign on
  20
       banks to commercially deploy enterprise
       blockchain solutions."
  21
            Q What page are you on?
  22
  23
            A Page three.
  24
           Q Okay.
           A That's not something that I was
  25
```

```
227
       usually involved with. So I -- I don't think
   1
       I was the one that put this in there, as an
   2
   3
       example.
           Q Going back to the report, are there
   4
       parts of the report that you authored as
   5
       opposed to other parts of the report that
   6
   7
       someone else authored?
            A Yes. I'm just not going to
  8
       remember which.
  9
           Q Did you draft the quarterly sales
10
       portion?
11
            A Yes. Yes.
12
13
           Q
                Did you draft the market commentary
14
       portion?
15
         A Yeah. I would have, yes. Except
       for this -- again, this second half feels
  16
       like marketing had some input in here, in
 17
 18
       terms of these bullet points and these
  19
       events.
 20
           Q Right.
           A Yeah. I --
  21
           Q Okay. After -- after that last
  22
  23
      bullet point, it goes on to say, "Markets are
  24
      clearly connecting the dots which join the
      Ripple -- the dots that banks which join the
  25
```

```
228
   1
        Ripple network today are perspective users of
        XRP liquidity in the future.
   2
                 Growing bank membership of the
   3
        Ripple network creates opportunities for
   4
        Ripple to deepen those customer relationships
   5
   6
        and cross-sell liquidity solutions built on
   7
        XRP. All of which should be beneficial to the
        asset."
  8
          Are you talking about -- what do
  9
10
        you mean by "beneficial to the asset"?
11
                 I think just general strength of
12
        the market. So more liquidity, more volume,
 13
       more utilities, certainly more price.
                 Higher price?
 14
            Q
                 Yeah. Sorry. Higher -- okay.
 15
           A
                 What did you mean by "markets are
  16
        clearly connecting the dots"?
 17
 18
                 Yeah. I didn't -- that's not me.
            A
           Q
                 You didn't write that?
  19
  20
            A
                 No. I --
  21
            Q
                 Do you know who wrote it?
                 Somebody in marketing wrote that.
  22
            A
  23
        Because I remember marketing kind of -- I
  24
        remember at the time, this was kind of a
        talking point that I was hearing internally.
  25
```

```
229
                 Connecting the dots?
   1
           Q
           A
                 Yeah.
   2
                 I read that in other documents as
   3
        well. So --
   4
   5
           A
                 Right.
   6
                 But your name is --
   7
            A
                 It is.
            Q
                 -- the only name on the report.
   8
                 It is. Again, these documents are
   9
            A
        collaborative. We do -- we use Google Docs
10
        as a forum. Everyone is on the document at
11
12
       the same time, just marking things up and
 13
       editing things and leaving comments.
            Q The -- each report has a section
14
15
        about the next quarter.
                 Is that a section that you would
  16
       draft?
  17
                 Sometimes. I also remember not
  18
            A
  19
       writing the line "we put our ear to the
  20
       ground."
  21
           Q
                 Who do you think wrote this?
  22
            A
                 I think that was marketing.
  23
                 When you say, "marketing," is there
  24
       a specific person?
                 I don't remember. And again, I may
  25
            A
```

```
230
   1
        have very well written one or two sentences
        and then they may have written one or two or
   2
        edited mine.
   3
                 Did you have any discussions with
   4
        anyone at the company where you discussed
   5
   6
        increasing the company's communications to
   7
        the market about what they were doing?
            A Yes.
8
                 That was in the context of the
   9
       decision to publish the report?
10
 11
            A
                 Correct.
12
            Q Did you have conversations, you
 13
        know, in or around -- in or around 2017,
        about increasing communications to the market
 14
        about what Ripple was doing?
 15
                 In the context of the report?
 16
 17
            Q Outside the context of the report.
 18
            A Not that I can remember.
  19
            Q I want to show you what's been
 20
        marked as Exhibit 30, which is the Q2 2017
  21
        XRP markets reports.
  22
                 MS. WAXMAN: If you don't mind
  23
        just --
  24
                MR. CERESNEY: Okay.
  25
                 (The witness examined the
```

```
231
        document.)
   1
             A Okay.
   2
   3
             Q On the second page or the first
        page where there's actual commentary under
   4
        the section marked, "Market commentary."
   5
   6
                  Did you draft that section?
   7
                  I believe I did.
             A
                  In the middle, it says, "Though
   8
        it's difficult to discern which of the many
   9
  10
        developments were most important, the most
 11
        dramatic had to be XRP's price increase. XRP
12
        finished the quarter at 26.263. A stunning
        quarter to quarter increase of 1,159 percent.
 13
        And year-to-date growth of 3,977 percent."
  14
  15
        Then on the next page, it says, "There were a
  16
        number of significant announcements and
        events which clearly contributed to XRP's
  17
  18
        incredible second quarter."
  19
                  Are you talking about the
  20
        incredible price increase?
  21
            A
                  Yeah.
  22
                  Were there any other announcements
  23
        that are listed here that contributed to the
  24
        price increase?
                  I -- I don't know.
  25
             A
```

```
232
               And were -- did you specifically
   1
       include these announcements as contributing
   2
       to the price increase?
   3
   4
           A I don't remember which one of these
       were mine.
   5
            Q Well, is -- are these statements
  6
  7
       based on actual data points --
           A No.
 8
           Q -- that the company collected?
  9
           A No. I don't think -- I don't think
10
11
       so.
12
           Q So are they exaggerated?
 13
           A No. I don't think there
       exaggerated. I think this is what we
14
15
       understood at the time.
           Q Okay. Well, that's a different --
  16
       and how did you come to that understanding?
 17
18
            A These were all positive
  19
       developments. There were certainly part of
20
       a -- in real time with trying to discern what
       was happening. I'm just trying to remember
  21
 22
       what the -- what the inputs were, to include
 23
       these and not include something else.
  24
        Q Were there inputs or do you
       think -- was this kind of just something that
  25
```

233 1 people had a gut -- was there data behind this, these statements? 2 A Data in terms of --3 Q Well, you are making representation 4 that these announcements are moving the 5 6 market for XRP. 7 Do you have data that's the basis for that statement or, you know, why are you 8 making these statements? 9 A This is what we believed. 10 Q Right. I understand it's your 11 belief. But what was the basis for that 12 13 belief? Was it market data? Was it just intuition, someone's intuition? 14 A I think it was -- what I'm trying 15 to remember is whether or not we were looking 16 back at the days the announcement came out 17 and whether or not there was a -- and I can't 18 19 remember that. 20 Q Well, we looked at the e-mail where 21 we really saw you had an announcement and it 22 looked like you were looking at trading price 23 on that day, following the Epicenter interview or something like that. 24 Did you do the same for these 25

```
234
  1
       announcements?
  2
           A We may have. I just can't
  3
       remember.
           Q Whose job would it have been to do
  4
       that?
  5
  6
                It would have been somebody on my
  7
       team or somebody on Marketing's team.
            Q Regardless of whether or not this
  8
       is actually based on market data, it seems
  9
       like you are telling people that these
 10
       announcements are contributing to increases
 11
 12
       in XRP's price --
 13
           A Yeah.
            Q -- whether or not it's true.
 14
15
                Sitting here today, you don't know
       if that's true or not?
 16
          A I don't.
 17
          Q Okay. If you go down a little
18
 19
       further, it says, "Each of these were
 20
       instrumental in helping to drive XRP interest
 21
       in volume in Q2."
 22
               Do you know if that statement is
 23
       true?
 24
       A I don't.
 25
           Q It says, "The market responded
```

```
235
       favorably to the escrow and decentralization
   1
       announcements in particular."
   2
               Did you write that?
   3
           A I don't remember.
   4
           Q Would there be e-mails that you
   5
        sent that would provide data to back this up?
   6
   7
                 Possibly. I -- I don't remember.
            A
            Q Well, earlier today we spoke about
  8
       why you felt that the escrow would address
  9
10
       concerns that people had about XRP in the
       market and build trust in Ripple and XRP.
11
12
         If you go toward the end, the
13
       section under the subject "Q3 2017," is that
14
        something you drafted or you would normally
15
       draft?
           A Mm-hmm. Yes.
  16
  17
            Q So what are you writing about in
       this section?
 18
  19
           A So here, I'm discussing what we are
  20
       looking to do in the third quarter to
  21
       continue to build liquidity.
  22
            Q You talk about the lending program.
  23
           A Yes.
  24
            Q Is that the OTC lending that we
       spoke about earlier today?
  25
```

236 This would have been -- this would have been something different. So we did 2 discuss lending to market makers to provide 3 liquidity. I think we discussed that 4 earlier. So that's what this would have been. 5 Q Okay. Building out the OTC 6 markets? 7 A Right. That's the commit-to-sell. 8 Q The commit-to-sell. 9 10 The greater transparency, is that 11 through these reports? 12 A Mm-hmm. 13 Q It says, "Most importantly we are 14 accelerating the pace of our investment in 15 the XRP ledger to build on its speed up time and scalability to ensure XRP is the most 16 trusted enterprise grade digital asset." 17 A That doesn't feel like one of my 18 19 sentences. 20 Q I know you may not have written it, but how was the company investing in XRP 21 22 ledger at the time? 23 A So the company, and it's referenced 24 in a few other e-mails, as a contributor to the protocol, we were building tools for the 25

237 1 protocol. And who would be -- in the 2 Epicenter interview, you reference kind of 3 the engineers that were involved. 4 The C++ team. 5 A 6 The C++ team. 7 If you go to the transcript, which is 27, on page seventeen at the bottom, you 8 say, "Four years later, we fund through VC 9 money and through XRP. I don't know, maybe 10 the best C++ team in the world is our Ripple 11 12 D team that constantly maintains and updates 13 the ledger; basically twenty-four hours a day. And I only know that because I'm on 14 15 slack on weird hours of the night and see these guys working. 16 We've taken -- you know, like if 17 you go to our office, it's not like the 18 19 office is filled with Ferraris and 20 Lamborghinis and we're all throwing champagne 21 truffle parties. The money goes right back 22 into the tech. So I feel like the company 23 has been a hell of a steward of the 24 technology and has really worked incredibly hard to build a mature product that works 25

```
238
     well, that is scalable and that is stable."
 1
             Do you think your statements about
 2
      the best C++ team in the world and their
 3
      constant commitment to the ledger were
 4
      something that was reflected in the XRP
 5
 6
      price?
 7
          A I don't know.
          Q Aside from being reflected in the
 8
      price, do you think that's something that
 9
      purchasers of XRP look to, to stabilize the
10
      value of XRP or increase the value of XRP?
11
          A I don't know.
12
13
         Q Was it one of the reasons you
     purchased XRP?
14
15
          A Yeah. I would say so, yeah.
               I'd like to show you what's been
16
      marked as Exhibit 31, which is a copy of the
17
      XRP markets report -- markets report for Q3
18
19
      2017.
20
                (The witness examined the
      document.)
21
          A
22
               Okay.
23
         Q What is Swell?
24
          A Swell is Ripple's, I guess now,
     annual conference.
25
```

```
239
                Do they usually hold it every year,
   1
       at the same time?
   2
           A
                I don't think so.
   3
               How many days is the conference?
   4
           0
                I don't think there's a -- I think
   5
  6
       every one is a different number of days.
   7
            Q
                Is it usually more than a day?
           A I don't know.
 8
            Q The most recent Swell conference,
  9
       how many days was it?
10
11
          A
               Actually, I don't know. I didn't
12
      go.
        Q What is the purpose of the Swell
 13
      conference? Have you ever attended a Swell
 14
 15
      conference?
           A I have.
 16
 17
            Q What years did you attend?
           A '17 or '18.
 18
  19
            Q
                '17 or '18.
 20
                What was the purpose of the
       conference?
  21
  22
                The overarching purpose is
  23
      matchmaking between our customers.
           Q What do you mean "matchmaking"?
  24
  25
           A So the -- in order for the software
```

```
240
       to work between customers, they have to be
 1
  2
       on-boarded to each other. So it's a good way
       for us to introduce possible partners to the
3
4
       other, start a relationship.
5
                 So as an example, in '18, we had
6
                    and Bitso. The
       money services business that using Ripple --
 7
       that uses Ripple software in XRP, that
 8
9
       traffic. Meet Bitso. So they can put a face
       to the name and the CEOs can meet and there
 10
       could be a more -- a tighter relationship if
 11
 12
       you will.
 13
          Q So the
                                 uses xRapid and the
       swap between XRP and the fiat is done on
 14
 15
       Bitso?
                One leg. One leg is on Bitstamp
 16
       and one leg is on Bitso.
 17
 18
                 The report talks about a pronounced
       price -- increase in price around Ripple's
 19
 20
       Swell campaign in Q3 2017. It says,
       "Anticipation around invites spurred a
 21
       meaningful spike in XRP, pushing it up one
 22
 23
       hundred percent. From fifteen cents to
 24
       thirty cents on 4.56 billion of volume. All
 25
       without a corresponding rally in BTC or ETH."
```

```
241
   1
                So did you write that?
                 I believe I did, yes.
   2
           A
            Q What did you mean anticipation
   3
       around the event spurred a meaningful spike?
   4
       Was there news being published right before
   5
   6
       Swell?
   7
           A There wasn't. There --
           Q How do you know there wasn't?
  8
                Right before the announcement or
  9
           A
       right before the conference?
10
11
              What announcement are you talking
12
      about?
13
            A The announcement of Swell.
14
           Q Oh. So you are talking about
15
       August 21st, that was the announcement that
 16
       they were going to have a Swell conference?
 17
       A Let me -- just refresh my memory
 18
       here a little bit. Because there was a --
 19
       there was a three, two, one campaign around
       the announcement of Swell. And then there
 20
  21
       was Swell.
 22
                 What do you mean by "a three, two,
 23
       one campaign"?
 24
            A
                 Marketing did a -- I just remember
       it as a three, two, one campaign. I can't
  25
```

242 1 remember exactly what they did. But this was our first conference, so marketing basically 2 had a campaign around it. And this was part 3 of it. It was, you know, they counted out 4 three, two, one on particular days. I think. 5 I can't remember. 6 7 Q Did the market campaign include specific announcements about Ripple or --8 A No. It was a teaser campaign 9 10 around the -- around the conference. 11 Did that campaign lead to a 12 meaningful spike in XRP? 13 A I can't remember whether it was the campaign or the anticipation of the actual 14 15 conference. Q Okay. Either way, it was one or 16 the other? 17 I think -- yeah, it was one or the 18 A other. 19 20 Q You write that the price had a 21 meaningful spike without a corresponding rally in BTC or ETH. 22 23 In general, were there times when 24 XRP's price, in your opinion, moved -- that didn't correlate with movements in Bitcoin or 25

```
243
   1
       Ethereum?
            A
   2
                 Yes.
                 When did that happen?
   3
            A
                 Often.
   4
                 Is that because you were monitoring
   5
  6
        changes in price on a daily basis?
   7
            A
                 Yes.
            Q And those movements, were they in
  8
  9
       relation to company announcements?
10
            A
                 No, not necessarily.
            0
                 Sometimes?
 11
12
           A
                 Possibly, yes.
 13
            Q Were -- in your opinion, were there
 14
        certain announcements that moved the price
 15
       more? Certain Ripple-related announcements?
           A I mean, I think this is -- this is
 16
       one and certainly in question. And the
 17
 18
        interesting thing about this announcement, it
 19
       had nothing to do with XRP.
 20
           Q Well, it had to do with Ripple.
 21
           A Right. But Swell was a conference
  22
       that -- around where our enterprise software
 23
       customers to come together and match-make.
  24
       And at the time, xRapid was still in its
       infancy. So in 2017, Swell's whole goal and
  25
```

vision was basically to make the match made really amongst our bank partners.

So we were using the RippleNet software at the time. It was too early for xRapid partners to meet each other. Because, quite frankly, there weren't any.

Q If the conference had nothing to do with the XRP. Why are you including it in an XRP markets report?

A Because it seemed to have an effect on the price. The announcement or the -- I can't remember if it was the announcement or the actual anticipation around the conference. But -- and I remember having this conversation with Denuca because there was no corresponding price. And as I mentioned in this whole report, there was a lot going on in this quarter with Bitcoin, Ethereum and ICOs and forks. So it was --

Q The DOW report.

A The DOW report, correct. There was a lot going on in the quarter. So the correlations were kind of all over the place. It was clearly something we were looking at pretty regularly.

245 Q When you say, "the correlations," between price and announcements? Is that 2 what you're saying? 3 No. Between Bitcoin and ETH and 4 A XRP. And how XRP was behaving with the rest 5 6 of the market. 7 Q Right. A I think I mentioned it in here. 8 Our longstanding thesis, if you will, would 9 be that over time, as liquidity and XRP grew, 10 it wouldn't be kind of wagged around by the 11 rest of the market. Because it would be so 12 13 big, that it would become it's own -- kind of its own liquidity pool without being affected 14 by Bitcoin or ETH. 15 Were there other reasons or other 16 circumstances in which XRP's price wouldn't 17 18 be affected by the other movements in other 19 current -- digital assets? 20 A I don't know. 21 Q Okay. I'd like to show you what's 22 been marked as Exhibit 32, which is Q4 2017 23 XRP market report. 24 (The witness examined the document.) 25

```
246
   1
           A
                 Mine has highlights.
                Oh. I'm sorry.
   2
           Q
                 It's okay.
   3
            A
                 MS. WAXMAN: Anyone have a clear
   4
       copy? Let's mark this one as a new exhibit.
   5
   6
                         (SEC Exhibit No. 34 was
  7
                          marked for
                          identification.)
  8
  9
               Okay. Showing you Exhibit 34,
            Q
       which is Q4 2017 XRP markets report. Dated
10
 11
       January 24, 2018. And you are listed as a
12
      sole author.
 13
                What was happening with the
 14
       price --
            A I'm sorry, I'm not done reading it.
 15
            Q Oh. Sure. Sure.
 16
                (The witness examined the
 17
      document.)
 18
 19
           A Okay.
 20
           Q On the second page, you talk about
       a dramatic increase in price of XRP. You
 21
 22
       said that it touched, you know, went beyond
 23
       $2.00 on December 30th.
 24
                 Do you have any understanding what
       caused the price increase?
  25
```

```
247
           A I don't.
   1
           Q Was the increase the result of any
   2
       Ripple-related news?
   3
         A Not -- not that I can tell.
   4
            Q On the third page, in the middle of
   5
       page it says, "In late Q4, XRP markets began
   6
  7
       to connect the dots again."
              Did you write that?
  8
           A I don't believe I did. Hold on:
  9
       Let me just find it here -- okay. Okay.
10
11
           Q It goes on to list particular
      events, news events.
12
13
                 Did you decide to include those in
       this report?
14
 15
           A I don't remember.
            Q At the time that the price had
  16
       increased and during this time, was there a
 17
 18
       large scale adoption of XRP for payments?
  19
            A No. At least not with respect to
  20
       the Ripple use case and xRapid.
           Q Had xRapid become commercially
  21
  22
       available?
  23
           A I think this is right -- this is
  24
       the time when we did the pilot with
       MoneyGram.
  25
```

248 And at this point in time, why 1 2 hadn't banks adopted xRapid? A I don't know why banks hadn't 3 4 adopted xRapid. 5 Q I'll ask you another question. 6 Why hadn't anyone adopted xRapid 7 for cross-border payments? It was early in the development of 8 9 the product. The product wasn't fully ready yet. I can try to remember when we had Bitso 10 11 become an xRapid partner and Bitstamp, in a meaningful way. Because I think with the 12 13 pilots -- I don't remember. I'm pretty sure 14 we didn't have xRapid agreements yet when we 15 did the pilots. Q At the bottom of the page, it says, 16 "Today, most RippleNet customers are adopting 17 xCurrent. Each one of these client 18 19 milestones increases the possibility that 20 institutions will eventually use XRP and 21 xRapid to take advantage of more efficient does today." liquidity just like 22 23 Does xCurrent use xRapid? 24 A It can. 25 0 Right. It's an add-on feature. I

249 1 understand. A Well, it was at the time. Now 2 3 it's -- the product set is called "Ripple Mattering" and it comes with the product. 4 Q So why are -- how do announcements 5 6 about increasing the number of customers 7 to -- that use xCurrent and increasing the number of customers that use Ripple Media, 8 why are those important to XRP? 9 I don't know that they're important 10 to XRP. Yeah. I don't know that they're 11 12 important to XRP. 13 Q Did you ever cite to those 14 announcements in any of the XRP market 15 reports? A Yeah, they're in here. 16 Q So if they're not important to XRP, 17 18 why would you cite them in the XRP markets 19 report? 20 They -- let me just kind of step back a little bit. 21 The goal is that you build Ripple 22 23 matter xCurrent at the time. You build 24 xRapid with XRP in the middle here. And then 25 the goal is to put these two things together.

250 1 If you don't build one, then you can never get to that. If you don't build the other, 2 3 then you can never get to that. In order to show progress towards that final vision, both 4 have to be happening. So --5 Would it increase -- cut number of 6 7 customers on RippleNet cause an increase in price of XRP? 8 9 Not necessarily, no. 10 Did announcements about increasing 11 number of --12 A I don't know. 13 0 -- customers cause an increase in 14 price? 15 A I don't know. Q If you go to the next page, the 16 17 paragraphs above "dramatic volume increases." 18 It says in the middle of that -- the middle 19 paragraph, "From conversations with market 20 participates as well as possible clients, 21 it's clear Ripple's consistent and steadfast 22 support of XRP is a major advantage as the 23 payment industry continues to seriously 24 consider it as an alternative liquidated 25 solution."

251 Did you write that? 1 2 A I think I did, yes. Why did you think Ripple's support 3 4 of XRP was an advantage? So this is in reference to -- I 5 6 think direct reference to what was happening 7 in that paragraph before. Around this, a lack of clarity, if you will, as to what 8 9 anyone wanted to do with other assets; Bitcoin and ETH. You know, it was clear, at 10 11 least with respect to Ripple, we had a very clear use case for XRP. And we were building 12 a business around certain software that used 13 14 XRP and it was a clear story. I thought that 15 was helpful. Q Was it a clear story that Ripple's 16 efforts would create value in the XRP? 17 No. The clear story is that we 18 were building a use case around XRP as a 19 20 liquidity bridge. Yeah. 21 Q At the time that you wrote this, was XRP being used as a liquidity bridge? 22 A It was just starting. I think we 23 had just had I think it's in here, 24 25 start to use it a little bit.

252 1 Do you know what the payment volumes were for XRP at the time? 2 I don't know. 3 A Minuscule or you don't know? 4 I don't know. I don't know. 5 MS. WAXMAN: So it's 5:15. I do 6 7 want to get back to the reports and talk about some other things in it. But I want to 8 focus on the document, the interview. And 9 then I think we'll -- I just want to ask some 10 follow up questions on this document. 11 12 MR. CERESNEY: Okay. Just a few 13 because we are going to have another day. 14 It's getting late. 15 MS. WAXMAN: That's fine. But since we introduced it, I just want to finish 16 it. 17 18 Q On page three, at the very bottom, 19 you say, "One of my goals in particular for 20 XRP is to get to that level, so the 21 institutional grade liquidity." 22 What does that mean, "institutional 23 grade liquidity"? Just curious. 24 A Again, my background was in gold. I had always anchored on that. Fifty to a 25

253 1 hundred billion dollars a day in volume with that real stretch gold to getting this to FX 2 volumes. Sort of five hundred billion or 3 trillion dollars a day. Something along 4 those lines. 5 Q On page five, in the middle of the 6 7 page, and throughout the interview, you talk about interoperability and ILP and 8 Interledger Protocol. 9 Can ILP be used today for 10 cross-border payments? 11 12 A I don't know. 13 Q Okay. A I'm not an ILP expert, 14 15 unfortunately. Q We spoke a little bit earlier about 16 the FinCEN ruling in 2015, which you 17 mentioned on page ten of the interview. 18 19 A Yes. 20 Q Did the FinCEN ruling require that you shut down certain parts of Ripple's 21 22 business or was it a choice that Ripple made? 23 A I wasn't there. I'm not sure 24 exactly what the ruling required. Q What was the -- you talk about a 25

```
254
   1
        shift in focus after the FinCEN ruling.
                What was the shift?
   2
   3
                 Again, this is through third-hand
       knowledge because I wasn't in the company in
   4
       '15 or '16. But -- and I think I mentioned
   5
   6
        it in the Epicenter podcast, it was a shift
   7
       to more enterprise software. So RippleNet
       without XRP. That was more the focus. A
 8
       shift in strategy.
  9
         Q RippleNet without XRP. So the
10
       messaging product.
11
12
         Who were the users of those
13
       products?
                That would have been banks. Those
14
15
       were the target audience.
                Prior to that, was the focus on
  16
           Q
 17
       retail?
18
        A I don't know.
            Q If you check your -- page twenty,
  19
       at the very top, it says, "One of most
 20
  21
       aggressive ways that we are distributing XRP
  22
       is by funding liquidity programs on
 23
      off-ledger exchanges."
  24
               So the volume incentive program at
       this stance of the market rebirth program,
  25
```

```
255
   1
       were all funded through XRP?
   2
           A Mm-hmm.
            Q Were there any restrictions placed
   3
   4
       on the XRP that was used in connection with
       these programs?
   5
   6
          A In terms of --
  7
            Q Trading restrictions?
            A Well, they were -- these were
  8
       payments to the exchanges in lieu of the fee
  9
       rebates. And some -- I don't know. They
10
       were --
11
        Q You don't believe so?
12
 13
           A No. No.
           Q On page twenty-four, you talk about
14
15
       alternate ways that the company can use their
       XRP. And then it says, "In my mind, there's
  16
 17
       possibility we end up more of a lending kind,
 18
       you know, more of a lender of a last resort
  19
       capacity, maybe."
  20
                 Has that idea ever been discussed
       in the company?
  21
           A
  22
                Yes.
  23
           Q How would that work?
           A How would that work -- sorry.
  24
            Q Right now, Ripple sells -- is
  25
```

```
256
  1
       selling XRP. You are saying that there could
       be a possibility of Ripple lending XRP.
  2
               Would that work in terms of xRapid
  3
       or ODL?
  4
                 Yes.
  5
           A
  6
            Q How would it work?
  7
            A Well, today we loan XRP to market
       makers so that they provide liquidity for
  8
       ODL --
  9
10
           Q And so you just expand the program?
11
                 Actually, more like focus it. So
12
       here, this discussion is a broader discussion
 13
       around general road liquidity. We did this
 14
       for a little while and then we stopped.
       Actually, I don't know. I think there may be
 15
       still some loans, some general market maker
 16
       loans outstanding. I'm not sure.
 17
 18
                 But then for xRapid and all the
 19
       others, it's very specific. It's not a "Hey,
 20
       come to Ripple and borrow our XRP program."
 21
       We don't have that. But it's "Hey, we want
 22
       to partner with you market maker to provide
 23
       liquidity in these three or four corridors.
 24
       As part of that partnership, we'll lend you
       XRP."
 25
```

```
257
                That's what you are doing?
   1
          0
           A
   2
                Now.
                Now?
   3
            Q
                Yes. It started in late '18, early
   4
            A
      '19, we started those conversations.
   5
  6
         Q Is that part of your current
  7
       responsibilities?
        A No. That's part of the markets
 8
       team now.
 9
          Q Okay. So they're trying to lend
10
       out XRP in connection with encouraging
11
12
      adoption of xRapid?
13
          A It's you lend XRP to the market
       maker to create the baseline liquidity, so
14
15
       that when customers use the product, the
 16
       liquidity.
       Q Where do they -- how -- where do
 17
18
      they set the XRP that they have to return?
 19
       How do they source the XRP? Do they just
20
       give back the XRP that they initially
 21
      borrowed?
22
          A
               I believe so.
 23
          Q You charge an interest rate?
24
        A I don't know if we do for the
       xRapid program. I'm not sure.
  25
```

```
258
                 MS. WAXMAN: Why don't we take a
   1
       two-minute break just so I can collect my
   2
       thoughts and then we'll go off the record.
   3
   4
               MR. CERESNEY: Okay.
               MS. WAXMAN: We are off the record
   5
       at 5:22.
   6
                 (A brief recess was taken.)
   7
                 MS. WAXMAN: We are back on the
   8
      record at 5:28.
  9
                Mr. Vias, while we were off the
 10
       record, did you have substantive conversation
 11
       with staff?
 12
 13
              THE WITNESS: No.
 14
                MS. WAXMAN: We are going to
      adjourn for today. As I mentioned to
15
 16
       counsel, we will need to resume on another
 17
       day; hopefully sometime in January 2020.
18
       Before we go off the record, does anyone want
 19
       to clarify anything?
                MR. CERESNEY: No. No. We'll just
20
       wait until the next date.
 21
22
                 MS. WAXMAN: We are off the record
 23
      at 5:29.
24
                 (Whereupon, at 5:29 p.m., the
      examination was concluded.)
 25
```

```
259
                    PROOFREADER'S CERTIFICATE
 1
 2
      In The Matter of: RIPPLE LABS, INC.
 3
      Witness:
                         Miguel Vias
      File Number:
 4
                         NY-09875-A
     Date:
                         Tuesday, December 17, 2019
 5
                         New York, NY
 6
      Location:
 7
                This is to certify that I, Maria E. Paulsen,
 8
9
      (the undersigned), do hereby certify that the
      foregoing transcript is a complete, true and accurate
10
11
      transcription of all matters contained on the recorded
12
     proceedings of the investigative testimony.
13
14
      (Proofreader's Name)
15
                                   (Date)
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

```
260
                       CERTIFICATE
   2
        STATE OF NEW YORK )
   3
                          :SS
       COUNTY OF NASSAU )
   4
                  I, Elbia Merino, a Notary Public within and
   5
   6
        for the State of New York, do hereby certify:
  7
                 I reported the proceedings in the
       within-entitled matter, and that the within transcript
  8
  9
       is a true record of such proceedings to the best of my
       ability.
10
11
                 I further certify that I am not related to
12
      any of the parties to this action by blood or
 13
       marriage; and that I am in no way interested in the
       outcome of this matter.
 14
 15
                 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
       hand this 28th day of December, 2019.
  16
 17
                           signature
 18
  19
  20
  21
  22
  23
  24
  25
```

[& - 5.6]

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       UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
   2
   3
       In the Matter of: )
                         ) File No. NY-09875-A
   4
   5
                        )
       RIPPLE
  6
  7
       WITNESS: Miguel Vias
       PAGES: 261 through 438
 8
 9
       PLACE: Three World Financial Center
10
              Suite 400
11
              New York, NY 10281
12
       DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2020
13
14
           The above-entitled matter came on for hearing,
15
      pursuant to notice, at 10:17 a.m.
 16
 17
18
 19
 20
  21
  22
  23
  24
              Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.
                         (202) 467-9200
  25
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262
   1
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  21
  22
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  24
  25
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266 1 PROCEEDINGS MS. WAXMAN: We're on the record at 2 10:17 a.m. on January 16, 2020. 3 4 Mr. Vias, good morning. My name is Daphna Waxman. With me is Jon Daniels, and we 5 6 are members of the Staff of the Enforcement 7 Division of the US Securities And Exchange Commission. We are officers of the commission 8 for purposes of today's proceeding. We are 9 10 resuming the examination -- today's 11 testimony -- which was adjourned on December 12 17, 2019. Would counsel please identify 13 14 himself and herself? MR. CERESNEY: Yes. Andrew Ceresney 15 from Debevoise & Plimpton, representing firm 16 Ripple, as well as the witness. 17 MS. COWAN: Jennifer Cowan from 18 Debevois & Plimpton, representing Ripple and 19 20 the witness. 21 MR. DHOND: Sameer Dhond from 22 Ripple, representing Ripple. 23 MS. GUO: Joy Guo from Debevois & 24 Plimpton, representing both the company and the witness. 25